

Book 5

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MASSACHUSETTS

CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY.

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SOCIAL SERVICE
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BY-LAWS
OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS
CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY,

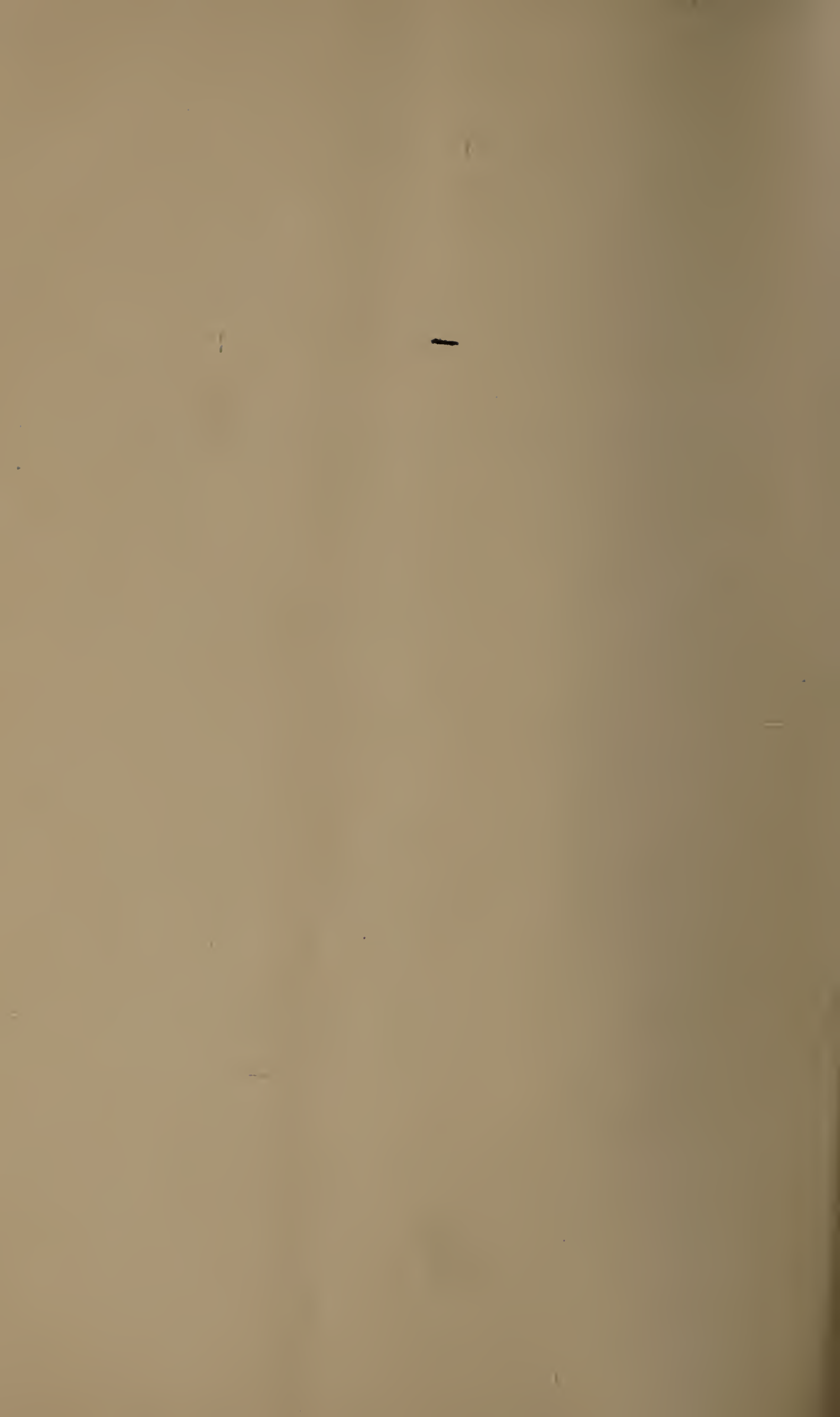
WITH THE
ACT OF INCORPORATION

AND ACTS IN ADDITION THERETO,

AND A

LIST OF PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

BOSTON:
ALFRED MUDGE & SON, PRINTERS,
34 SCHOOL STREET.
1880.



ORIGIN
OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY.

A NUMBER of citizens of the town of Boston, taking into consideration the evils which frequently arise from the ravages of fire, and wishing to lessen the same, associated at Boston, on the 20th of November, 1792, for the purpose of establishing a fund, and applying the income to this humane undertaking. The propriety of such a design appeared obvious from the difficulty of guarding against the injuries originating in this cause, insurance against fire not being practised; yet the materials and style of the buildings in this country are such as expose them to the greatest hazard. It was presumed that the several fire societies in Boston would assist the scheme, and it was conceived that a common and general Society might be formed as well from their members as from other citizens of the Commonwealth, whose feelings might impel them to so benevolent an object.

A committee was commissioned to draft a Constitution for the government of the Society, and a Constitution was adopted on the 21st of January, 1793. The Society continued their meetings, by adjournments, until the

August following, when their members were considerably increased. A committee was then appointed to draft an address to the several fire societies in Boston and the adjacent towns, stating abstractly the principles of the Constitution, informing them of the state of the Society, and requesting their aid in effectually establishing the same. Several communications were received in consequence of the address, and a public meeting of the Society was held at the County Court House, Feb. 6, 1794. Committees from several fire societies attended the meeting agreeably to invitation, at which meeting GEORGE R. MINOT, Esq., JOHN LUCAS, Esq., Col. PAUL REVERE, Col. WILLIAM SCOLLAY, ARNOLD WELLES, Jr., JOSHUA THOMAS, and SHUBAEL BELL were appointed a committee to report a Constitution and By-Laws, which were adopted. The following constituted the first government:—

PRESIDENT.

HIS HONOR MOSES GILL, Esq.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

HON. GEORGE R MINOT.

TREASURER

DR. OLIVER SMITH.

REC. SECRETARY.

MR. WILLIAM ALLINE.

COR. SECRETARY.

REV. MR. JAMES FREEMAN.

TRUSTEES.

HON. JAMES BOWDOIN.

WILLIAM TUDOR, Esq.

JOHN LUCAS, Esq.

WILLIAM SCOLLAY, Esq.

MR. ARNOLD WELLES, JR.

JOSIAH WATERS, Esq.

MR. JOSHUA THOMAS.

MR. SHUBAEL BELL.

The funds of this Society now amount to FIFTY-SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS. For this result we are indebted to the careful and judicious manner in which the investments have been made; not a dollar has been lost by mismanagement, and it is believed that all our charities have been bestowed on worthy objects.

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four.

AN ACT for incorporating certain persons into a Society, by the name of the MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY.

WHEREAS Moses Gill, George Richards Minot, Oliver Smith, James Freeman, James Bowdoin, William Scollay, John Lucas, and Arnold Welles, Jr., in behalf of themselves and others associating with them, have petitioned this Court to be incorporated for the purpose of relieving such as may suffer by fire, and of stimulating genius to useful discoveries, tending to secure the lives and property of their fellow-men from destruction by that element :

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the persons above named and their associates be, and hereby are, incorporated into and made a body politic, by the name of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, for the purposes aforesaid, and shall

have perpetual succession by the said name, with power to make by-laws and regulations for the preservation and advancement of the said Society, not repugnant to the laws of this Commonwealth, with penalties, either of disfranchisement from the said Society, or of a mulct, not exceeding twenty shillings for each offence, as to the said corporation shall appear best.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said body politic are hereby authorized and empowered to make and use a common seal, and to sue and defend, and are made liable to be sued, by the name aforesaid, in any of the Judicial Courts within this Commonwealth, and are hereby licensed and empowered to make purchases, and to receive grants, subscriptions, and donations of real and personal estate, and to hold the same for the charitable purposes aforesaid, provided the income of the said real and personal estate shall not exceed the sum of ten thousand pounds annually, and to alien and convey such estate as to the said corporation shall appear fit.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said body politic be and are hereby authorized to meet annually, on such day as they may appoint, and then to choose such officers as to them may appear necessary, and to meet at such other times for filling up vacancies occasioned by death or resignation of officers or otherwise, and for transacting all other business requisite for promoting the ends of the said corporation, as by them shall be agreed upon.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,
That his Honor, Moses Gill, Esquire, be and he is
hereby authorized and empowered to call the first meet-
ing of the said corporation, at such place in the town of
Boston as to him may appear proper, on the fourth
Tuesday of July next.

In the House of Representatives, June 25, 1794, this bill,
having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

EDWARD H. ROBBINS, *Speaker.*

In Senate, June 25, 1794, this bill, having had two several
readings, passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, *President.*

June 25, 1794. By the Governor, approved.

SAMUEL ADAMS.

True copy. Attest:

JOHN AVERY, JR., *Secretary.*

ADDITIONAL ACT.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-two.

AN ACT, in addition to an Act entitled "An Act incorporating certain persons into a Society by the name of the MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, or the Trustees of the same, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to appropriate and dispose of such part of the interest accruing from the funds of said Society, to any other charitable purpose or purposes than those mentioned in the Act entitled "An Act incorporating certain persons into a Society by the name of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society," and to such benevolent institutions within this Commonwealth as the Trustees of the said Society, or a major part of them, shall from time to time deem fit and proper, provided, however, that no donation or appropriation of the interest as aforesaid shall exceed

the sum of three hundred dollars at any one time, or to any one charitable purpose or benevolent institution, until the same shall have received the approbation and consent of the said Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, at a meeting duly notified and holden for that purpose.

Approved by the Governor, Feb. 16, 1822.

A true copy.

ALDEN BRADFORD, *Secretary.*

ADDITIONAL ACT.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one.

AN ACT, in addition to an Act incorporating certain persons into a Society by the name of the MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society be and they hereby are authorized to appropriate and dispose of such part of the funds of said Society to any other charitable purpose or purposes than those mentioned in their Act of Incorporation, and to such benevolent institutions within this Commonwealth as they may have already designated by their vote or votes, or shall hereafter, from time to time, deem fit and proper to designate, at any meeting duly called for such purpose, provided that such appropriation shall not exceed twenty-five per centum of the whole capital stock of said

Society ; and provided also, it shall in no case affect the bequests of any individual who has bequeathed or may bequeath any legacy to said Society.

In the House of Representatives, June 10, 1831. Passed to be enacted.

W. B. CALHOUN, *Speaker*.

In Senate, June 11, 1831. Passed to be enacted.

LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, *President*.

June 11, 1831. Approved.

LEVI LINCOLN.

A true copy. Attest:

EDWARD D. BANGS, *Secretary*.

BY-LAWS.

PREAMBLE.

THE objects of this Society, shall be ^{Objects of} to assist those who may unfortunately ^{the Soci-} suffer by fire; to reward the industry and ^{ety.} ingenuity of those who make valuable discoveries for preventing devastations by fire, or who invent useful machines for extinguishing the same, or make extraordinary exertion in time of such calamity; and also, after paying such expenses as the government or corporation may determine, to appropriate to benevolent institutions and charitable purposes such part of the income accruing from the funds as the government or corporation may lawfully devote to those objects.

ARTICLE I.

Funds, The funds of this Society shall never be
how expended except as provided in the Pream-
invested. ble to these By-Laws. They shall be in-
vested only in such manner as savings
banks or institutions for savings, incorpo-
rated under the authority of this State
are now, or may hereafter be, authorized
to invest their deposits. No appropria-
tion or expenditure shall be made which
will reduce the funds below the sum of
Fifty Thousand Dollars.

ARTICLE II.

Members. The corporation shall consist of not
more than fifty members, and no person
shall be admitted a member unless
recommended by a vote of the govern-
ment and confirmed by the corpora-
How ad- tion. In either case four dissenting
mitted. votes shall defeat the candidate; *provided,*
however, no application for membership

shall be acted upon unless a vacancy exists: and no person so elected shall become a member unless he shall, within fifteen days after notice from the Secretary, signify in writing his acceptance of such membership and pay to the Treasurer the sum of five dollars, which Admission shall entitle him to a certificate of membership.^{fee.}

ARTICLE III.

There shall be two meetings of the corporation in each year, both of which shall be held in the city of Boston; viz., the Annual Meeting on the second Friday Annual in October, the other on the second Meeting. Friday in April; notice of which and of all other meetings of the corporation shall be given by the Secretary by mail Meetings, at least five days previous to such meet-^{how} ings. Special meetings shall be called^{called.} by the Secretary by direction of the government or upon the written request of

Quorum. ten members. Not less than ten members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IV.

Officers. The government shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and eight Trustees, who shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting; and
How
chosen. vacancies occurring from any cause shall be filled at the next regular meeting of the corporation, or at any special meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE V.

Govern- Meetings of the government shall be
ment called by direction of the President, or
Meetings, upon the written request of three of its
how members, by notice signed by the Secre-
called. tary, or in his absence by the President or Treasurer, which shall be sent to each member at least three days prior to the time of meeting.

ARTICLE VI.

No person shall be eligible to the office of President or Vice President for more than two consecutive years.

President,
Vice-
President,
term of
service.

ARTICLE VII.

A majority of the government, assembled on due notice, shall be vested with full powers to act on all business pertaining to the corporation, *except as provided in Article XI.*

Power of
the Gov-
ernment.

ARTICLE VIII.

There shall be chosen by ballot at the Annual Meeting three members of the government, who shall be a Committee of Finance. It shall be their duty to cause the funds to be safely invested; and they may, from time to time, make such a change in the investments (agreeably to Article I.) as they may deem for the interest of the corporation. They shall

Finance
Commit-
tee.

Their
duty.

cause all moneys to be deposited in such bank as they may designate, and no stock or bonds shall be transferred, or Securities, mortgage cancelled or assigned, without the written approval of two of their number.
how trans-ferred.

ARTICLE IX.

Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds and securities of the corporation, and shall manage the same as the Finance Committee shall direct. He shall deposit all moneys on hand in such bank as they may determine; and all checks drawn against such moneys shall be countersigned by one of their number. He shall not make transfers of stocks, or change any securities, except as provided in Article VIII. He shall not pay any bills, except those incurred by the Secretary in calling meetings as provided in Articles III. and V., or disburse any money, unless by vote of the corporation or of the govern-
Payment, how made

ment, or without the written approval of a majority of any committee authorized to make such expenditure or payment. He shall keep a record of all receipts and expenditures, and the same, together with all securities and other papers of value, shall be kept in a fire-proof safe ; and at the Annual Meeting in October, he shall make a detailed report of the same (giving ^{Treasurer's} a statement of the financial condition of the ^{report.} corporation at the time). He shall give bonds satisfactory to the government, in such sum as they shall require, for the faithful performance of his duty, and shall receive the sum of two hundred dollars ^{Compensation.} annually, as compensation for his services.

ARTICLE X.

It shall be the duty of the Secre- ^{Secretary,} tary to notify and attend all meetings ^{his duty.} of the corporation and of the government, record their doings, and generally to perform the duties usually required of

such an officer; he shall cause the records to be kept in a fire-proof safe, and he shall receive the sum of fifty dollars annually as a compensation for his services.

ARTICLE XI.

Commit- At the Annual Meeting there shall be
tee on Do- elected, by ballot, three members of the
nations, Society, to constitute a Committee on
powers Donations, who shall have authority to
and duties. expend, from the income of the funds of
the Society, sums not exceeding fifty
dollars in any individual case, for the
relief of any worthy person who is a suf-
ferer by reason of any calamity from fire in
this city; said sums to be paid by the
Treasurer upon the requisition of a majority
of said committee. Said committee shall
also have authority, subject to the approval
of the government, to donate to any
benevolent or charitable societies in this
city sums not exceeding two hundred and
fifty dollars in each case. No sum exceed-

ing two hundred and fifty dollars shall be appropriated for any object without a vote of the corporation first had and obtained thereon.

ARTICLE XII.

At all meetings of the corporation or of ^{Presiding} the government, in the absence of the ^{officer.} President and Vice-President, the Treasurer or one of the Trustees shall preside.

ARTICLE XIII.

These By-Laws shall not be amended, ^{By-Laws,} altered, or repealed unless by a vote of ^{how} three fourths of those present at a meet- ^{amended.} ing ordered by vote of the corporation, and called by a written notice, signed by ^{Notice to} the Secretary, and directed to each mem- ^{be given.} ber, stating the object of the meeting; such notice to be sent at least five days before the time of meeting.

Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society.

PAST PRESIDENTS.

1794 to 1800.

MOSES GILL.

1800 to 1802.

GEORGE R. MINOT.

1802 to 1816.

ARNOLD WELLES.

1816 to 1832.

THOMAS K. JONES.

1832 to 1839.

JOHN HEARD, JR.

1839 to 1841.

FRANCIS J. OLIVER.

1841 to 1849.

EBENEZER T. ANDREWS.

1849 to 1850.

JAMES PHILLIPS.

1850 to 1854.

ADAM W. THAXTER.

1854 to 1859.

WILLIAM T. ANDREWS.

1859 to 1861.

WILLIAM ADAMS.

1861 to 1863.

ALFRED A. WELLINGTON.

1863 to 1864.

ENOCH HOBART.

1864 to 1866.

JOHN W. WARREN.

1866 to 1868.

DAVID KIMBALL.

1868 to 1870.

BENJAMIN BEAL.

1870 to 1872.

MOSES KIMBALL.

1872 to 1874.

CHARLES LEIGHTON.

1874 to 1876.

SOLOMON HOVEY.

1876 to 1878.

URIEL CROCKER.

1878 to 1880.

PAUL ADAMS.

MEMBERS

OF THE

Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society

FROM 1794 TO 1880.

N. B. The records of the Society do not contain the admissions of any members prior to 1834. Members in the following list, whose names are published without any date affixed thereto, were therefore connected with the Society previous to that date. The asterisk denotes those who are deceased.

*Alline, William	.	.	.	.	.	
*Andrews, Ebenezer T.	.	.	.	.	.	
*Austin, James T.	.	.	.	.	.	
*Andrews, William T.	.	.	.	.	.	April 13, 1838.
*Adams, William	.	.	.	.	.	January 6, 1842.
Adams, Paul	.	.	.	.	.	April 8, 1853.
*Alline, Henry	.	.	.	.	.	April 13, 1855.
Andrews, Francis W.	.	.	.	.	.	October 12, 1855.
*Bowdoin, James	.	.	.	.	.	
*Bell, Shubael	.	.	.	.	.	
*Burditt, James-W.	.	.	.	.	.	
*Badger, Willard	.	.	.	.	.	
*Bartlett, Thomas	.	.	.	.	.	
*Brigham, Benajah	.	.	.	.	.	
*Blake, Lemuel	.	.	.	.	.	
*Burroughs, George	.	.	.	.	.	
*Baker, Ruel	.	.	.	.	.	October 14, 1842.
*Bates, Ezekiel	.	.	.	.	.	April 10, 1846.

*Beal, Benjamin	.	.	.	.	.	April 10, 1846.
*Baker, B. Franklin	.	.	.	.	.	October 12, 1849.
*Bangs, Isaiah	.	.	.	.	.	April 12, 1850.
*Briggs, Billings	.	.	.	.	.	October 11, 1850.
Brewster, Osmyn	.	.	.	.	.	October 12, 1855.
*Beal, Benjamin F.	.	.	.	.	.	October 21, 1859.
*Cook, Isaac	.	.	.	.	.	
*Coolidge, Joseph	.	.	.	.	.	
*Cary, Isaac	.	.	.	.	.	October 9, 1846.
Crocker, Uriel	.	.	.	.	.	October 11, 1850.
Clark, Henry G.	.	.	.	.	.	April 8, 1853.
*Cumings, Bradley N.	.	.	.	.	.	April 12, 1861.
Cummings, Charles A.	.	.	.	.	.	October 20, 1871.
Cary, Alexander C.	.	.	.	.	.	October 20, 1871.
Cumings, Charles B.	.	.	.	.	.	October 20, 1871.
Crocker, George G.	.	.	.	.	.	May 9, 1873.
Cumings, John Wells	.	.	.	.	.	April 9, 1875.
*Dodd, Timothy	.	.	.	.	.	
*Dorr, John	.	.	.	.	.	
*Davis, Charles A.	.	.	.	.	.	October 21, 1859.
Davis, William F.	.	.	.	.	.	October 20, 1871.
*Eaton, William (N. Y.)	.	.	.	.	.	October 14, 1842.
*Eaton, William	.	.	.	.	.	April 13, 1860.
*Freeman, James	.	.	.	.	.	
*Fox, John	.	.	.	.	.	
*Gill, Moses	.	.	.	.	.	
*Gay, Ebenezer V.	.	.	.	.	.	
*Goodridge, Samuel T.	.	.	.	.	.	
Gregg, Washington P.	.	.	.	.	.	

*Hobart, Enoch	.	.	.	.	.	
*Heard, John	.	.	.	.	.	
*Hunnewell, Jonathan	.	.	.	.	.	
Hovey, Solomon	.	.	.	.	.	October 22, 1845.
*Harrington, Ephraim	.	.	.	.	.	October 9, 1846.
*Hartshorn, Caleb	.	.	.	.	.	
*Hall, Timothy	.	.	.	.	.	
*How, Samuel	.	.	.	.	.	
*Hallett, George	.	.	.	.	.	October 14, 1842.
*Hancock, H. K.	.	.	.	.	.	April 12, 1850.
Hovey, Joseph F.	.	.	.	.	.	April 12, 1850.
Healy, John P.	.	.	.	.	.	October 20, 1871.
Hobart, Arthur W.	.	.	.	.	.	October 20, 1871.
Hovey, Solomon, Jr.	.	.	.	.	.	October 20, 1871.
*Ingalls, William	.	.	.	.	.	
*Jones, Thomas K.	.	.	.	.	.	
*Kirkland, John T., D. D.	.	.	.	.	.	
*King, Gedney	.	.	.	.	.	
*Kimball, David	.	.	.	.	.	July 9, 1847.
Kimball, Moses	.	.	.	.	.	October 12, 1849.
Kimball, David P.	.	.	.	.	.	October 8, 1858.
Kimball, L. Cushing	.	.	.	.	.	October 20, 1871.
*Krueger, Wm. A.	.	.	.	.	.	October 20, 1871.
*Lucas, John	.	.	.	.	.	
*Lincoln, Bradford	.	.	.	.	.	
*Lovering, Joseph	.	.	.	.	.	
*Loring, James	.	.	.	.	.	
*Leighton, Charles	.	.	.	.	.	October 12, 1849.
Lincoln, Frederic W.	.	.	.	.	.	October 11, 1850.
*Lothrop, Joshua R.	.	.	.	.	.	April 13, 1855.
*Lovejoy, Loyal	.	.	.	.	.	October 21, 1859.

*Minot, George R.	.	.	.	.	.
*McCleary, Samuel F.	.	.	.	.	.
*Messinger, Henry	.	.	.	.	.
*Mitchell, Phineas	.	.	.	.	.
*Messinger, Daniel	.	.	.	.	October 10, 1834.
*Moriarty, John M.	.	.	.	.	April 12, 1850.
McCleary, Samuel F.	.	.	.	.	October 20, 1871.
Nottage, Samuel C.	.	.	.	.	April 10, 1846.
*Oliver, Francis J.	.	.	.	.	.
*Ober, John P.	.	.	.	.	April 13, 1855.
Oliver, Samuel P.	.	.	.	.	April 10, 1857.
*Ober, John P., Jr.	.	.	.	.	October 9, 1863.
*Perkins, Samuel	.	.	.	.	.
*Phillips, James	.	.	.	.	.
*Quincy, Josiah	.	.	.	.	.
*Revere, Paul	.	.	.	.	.
*Revere, Joseph W.	.	.	.	.	.
*Richards, Samuel	.	.	.	.	.
*Rice, Henry	.	.	.	.	May 31, 1811.
*Ransford, Josiah C.	.	.	.	.	.
*Russell, Benjamin	.	.	.	.	.
Restieaux, Thomas	.	.	.	.	April 12, 1850.
*Rice, Lewis	.	.	.	.	April 11, 1856.
Restieaux, Thomas, Jr.	.	.	.	.	October 20, 1871.
Rice, Henry B.	.	.	.	.	October 20, 1871.
Rice, Frederic L.	.	.	.	.	April 9, 1875.
*Scollay, Wm.	.	.	.	.	.
*Smith, Oliver	.	.	.	.	.
*Salisbury, Samuel	.	.	.	.	.
*Sherman, Charles J. F.	.	.	.	.	April 11, 1856.

*Tudor, William	.	.	.	.	.	
*Thomas, Joshua	.	.	.	.	.	
*Thomas, T. K.	.	.	.	.	.	
*Thompson, John	.	.	.	.	.	
*Thaxter, Adam W.	.	.	.	.	.	
*Thacher, George M.	.	.	.	.	.	April 26, 1852.
*Veazie, Eli	.	.	.	.	.	
*Welles, Arnold, Jr.	.	.	.	.	.	
*Waters, Josiah	.	.	.	.	.	
*Winthrop, Thomas L.	.	.	.	.	.	
*White, Charles	.	.	.	.	.	
*White, Joseph	.	.	.	.	.	
*Welles, Alfred	.	.	.	.	.	
*Wilson, John	.	.	.	.	.	
*Walter, Lynde	.	.	.	.	.	
*Webb, Nathan	.	.	.	.	.	
*Whitney, Moses	.	.	.	.	.	
*Warren, John W., Jr.	.	.	.	.	.	June 8, 1843.
*Wellington, Alfred A.	.	.	.	.	.	October 9, 1846.
Walker, Clement A.	.	.	.	.	.	April 11, 1856.
Wellington, Fred A.	.	.	.	.	.	October 9, 1863.
Whitney, Henry Austin	.	.	.	.	.	April 9, 1875.

